

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 02725 261103Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 NEAE-00 /018 W
-----124379 261110Z /12
P 261030Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2123

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, EQUIP, NP
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE - AMERICAN WOMEN'S EXPEDITION

REF: STATE 132610

1. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH MIKE CHENEY OF THE SHERPA COOPERATIVE, FIRM WHICH IS HANDLING THIS END OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S EXPEDITION (ANNAPURNA) (AWEA), REGARDING PROBLEM CITED REFTEL. CHENEY STATES THAT ISSUE INVOLVES REQUIREMENT FOR GOODS ENTERING THAILAND BY SEA TO TRANSIT THAI TERRITORY TO AIRPORT FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT. IN EFFECT THE GOODS ARE IN BOND FOR THIS PERIOD AND BANK GUARANTEE COVERS POSSIBILITY OF THEIR DISAPPEARING INTO COUNTRYSIDE WITHOUT PAYMENT OF DUTY, ETC. AS CHENEY NOTED, INDIA IMPOSES SIMILAR SYSTEM--ALTHOUGH TRANSIT DISTANCE FROM CALCUTTA TO BORDER IS CLEARLY CONSIDERABLY GREATER. AS TO BENEFIT OF HAVING SOMEONE WITH EMBASSY ADDRESS AS FINAL RECIPIENT, CHENEY KNOWS NOTHING DEFINITE BUT STATES THIS "SEEMS TO IMPRESS" THAIS.

2. RE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM, WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT WISE FOR PEALE TO ALLOW HIS NAME TO BE USED AS RECIPIENT OF EQUIPMENT. THERE IS QUESTION OF LEGALITY OF SUCH ACTION--EITHER LOCALLY OR FROM FOREIGN SERVICE PERSPECTIVE. CERTAINLY, HERE AND IN THAILAND DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL USE OF PEALE'S NAME WOULD BE LOST--WHICH IS,
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OF COURSE EXACTLY WHY EMBASSY ADDRESS MIGHT WORK BETTER THAN THAT OF THE SHERPA COOPERATIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, MOREOVER, OUR RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH EXPEDITIONS, AND GON INTERPRETATION OF REGULATIONS REGARDING SAME, INDICATES THAT EMBASSY SHOULD CAREFULLY CIRCUMSCRIBE ITS DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN CASES SUCH AS THIS.

3. ALL OF WHICH LEAVES US STILL WANTING TO BE AS HELPFUL
AS POSSIBLE TO AWEA BOTH IN THIS INSTANCE AND IN GENERAL.
SINCE PRESENT DIFFICULTY CLEARLY RESTS WITH REGULATIONS
AND/OR INTERPRETATIONS THEREOF IN THAILAND, IT STRIKES US
THAT EMBASSY BANGKOK MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE.
WE COULD ASK, BUT PERHAPS SUCH REQUEST SHOULD MORE APPRO-
PRIATELY COME FROM DEPARTMENT. IF BANGKOK NEEDS ANYTHING FROM
US--E.G. ASSURANCES AS TO LEGITIMACY OF THIS EXPEDITION OR OF
THE SHERPA COOPERATIVE--TO FACILITATE ITS EFFORTS WE WILL DO OUR
BEST TO COMPLY. IN MEANTIME PLEASE ASSURE ARLENE BLUM THAT
EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST HER AND AWEA IN EVERY WAY
WE APPROPRIATELY CAN.
HECK

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Message Attributes

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